(d) if so, whether Government propose to make specific provisions in the Budget to convert this line in the next two years, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The work of doubling of Hapur-Moradabad section has been taken up. Double line between Amroha-Moradabad has since been completed and commissioned. The work of doubling of Amroha-Kankather (31 kms.) is targeted for completion during 2005-06. The target of the remaining section between Kankather-Hapur (42.71 kms.) has not yet been fixed and completion would depend upon availability of resources.

(c) Some trains get delayed due to single line working on this route.

Increasing the Speed of Shatabdi Express

4780. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increase in the speed of Shatabdi Express has been put on hold;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government feel that it may be dangerous to run the fastest trains on the Indian Tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. It was contemplated to increase the maximum speed of Shatabdi Express between New Delhi-Agra Cantt section, to 150 kmph. The track and signalling system, available on this section, is adequate to run such a train.

However, the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS) has not, so far, cleared the running of this train and has drawn attention to issues like provision of fencing throughout to prevent cattle straying on to track, train protection and warning system as an additional measure to prevent a driver passing signal at danger, provision of frills on lifting barrier at level crossing gates as an additional measure to prevent entry of road users in a closed gate, Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) of rails by Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURT) car in addition to manual testing etc. Action has been taken to satisfactorily address all these issues, before the train is run.